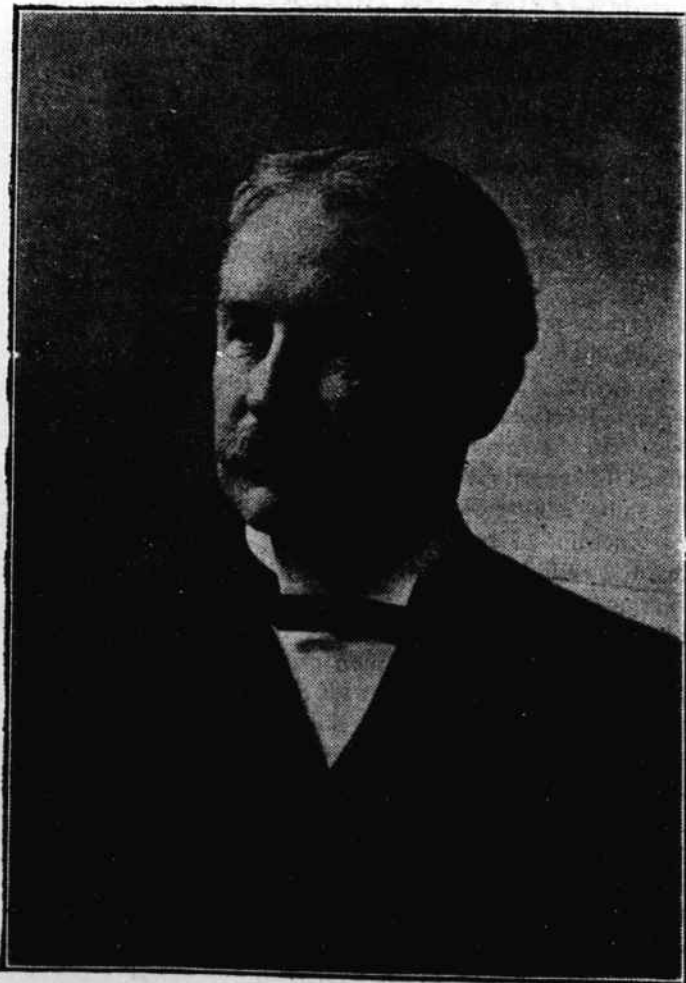


deeply in behalf of all our home work, and a vigorous evangelistic spirit possess all our pulpits and churches. For this we are hoping. The Assembly might send a clarion peal to the whole Church to arise and go forward.

One of our Presbyteries overtures to the Assembly for the appointment of a committee, ad interim, to study the proportionate needs of our executive committees and if possible prepare a budget each year, giving each of our great causes its just place in the intelligence and interest of the people. Another overture of interest relates to the "Sustentation Fund." All that concerns the better care and support of the aged and infirm servants of the Church, their widows and orphans, is surely of commanding importance. Certainly all these causes, education for the ministry, publication, Sunday school missions, are part of our great home mission work, that are absolutely indispensable, and are opening springs from which the life of the Church will go in Foreign missions to the ends of the earth.

Let the prayers of the churches be offered for the Assembly.

"God be merciful unto us and bless us; that thy way be known on earth; thy saving health among all nations."



REV. W. W. MOORE, D.D.L.L.D.

President Union Theological Seminary.

The retiring Moderator who will preach the opening Sermon for the Assembly in Savannah.

THE ASSEMBLY'S JUDICIAL BUSINESS.

One of the most practical problems before our Assemblies, and one that has been growing to be more and more a problem with the passing years, is the matter of the judicial business coming before the Assembly on appeal or complaint from the lower courts or by individuals against the lower courts. The genius of Presbyterianism is that every one who has a cause be given a hearing and have the right of appeal or complaint, no matter how unimportant or insignificant his case may be. The humblest member of the Church, in the most ordinary and obscure case, has this inalienable right. The effect of this, however, is frequently the loading down of the General Assembly with judicial cases, consuming a large part of its time, distracting the attention of its members, and greatly interfering with other legitimate work of the body. The attempt to relieve the situation by referring many of the judicial cases to commissions has not had the desired effect. It has only resulted in taking from the floor of the Assembly many of its members and causing these members to hasten through cases submitted to them that they might return the sooner to the Assembly's sessions, thus both depriving the court of the members and their valuable counsel at needed junctures, and giving the appellants and complainants hasty sittings and a feeling sometimes that the commission, in the desire of its members to get back to the Assembly's floor, has done scant justice. Sometimes the commissions sit at off hours, and these being few and irregular the causes are not adequately examined and deliberated upon. Still further, it is only "by consent of parties" that judicial cases can be referred to commissions at all. Many a time this may not be consented to.

The increasing demand upon the Assembly's time and attention in such cases, along with the increased time needed of late for attention to the Church's administrative and legislative work, together with its consideration of the more distinctively evangelistic part or its duty and interest as a Church, led the last Assembly to take some steps looking towards relief. The matter was referred to an ad-interim committee. This committee has, we are informed, had the whole matter under most careful advisement and study, and will present a report at the present Assembly's sessions which will, if it is accepted afford the relief desired. It is to be hoped that the recommendations to be submitted will be simple, so that they may the more readily be understood and accepted. Any proposition looking toward many and drastic changes in the Book of Church Order, or any curtailing of the rights of even the humblest appellant or complainant, or towards the erection of a separate and distinct judicial tribunal which will be another in our series of courts, or towards the deflecting from the General Assembly of any of its present power or relation to judicial cases, would be unwise and radical. Whatever is done for relief should not touch one of the points named. The Church will watch with great interest for the solution which may be proposed and may be expected to regard it with favor if it be wise and conservative.